

Today you are getting an opportunity to build an important mathematical object called a parabola.

1. What do you already know about a parabola? You can write down words, use symbols, or a sketch to share all the different things you already know about a parabola.

2. Now you are going to build a parabola by finding points that satisfy the definition. Gather some tools first such as a ruler, string, or scissors.

Read the following definition and begin to find a collection of points that satisfy the definition of a parabola.

DEFINITION: A parabola is the set of points that are equal distance from a fixed point (called the **focus**) and a fixed line (called the **directrix**).

